GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:995
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000
COMBAT TERRORISM
MOINUL HASSAN AHAMED

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to explore ways to combat terrorism;

(b) if so, whether the Government are in touch with other countries to deal with terrorist activities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have signed an agreement with USA to find out areas of co-operation to fight against the threat of terrorism;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether such co-operation was sought by the Government from big powers at the time of hijacking of Indian Aircraft in December, 1999; and (g) if so, the extent to which India is likely to be benefitted?

Answer

MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) - (c) Government of India continues to attach the highest priority to combating terrorism. With this in mind, India has been at the forefront in generating international consensus to explore ways and means to combat the

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menace of terrorism. The government has been in touch with several countries in the matter and they have offered cooperation in our fight against terrorism.
(d) & (e) No such agreement has been signed with USA. However, in the first meeting of the Indo-US Joint Working Group on Counter-terrorism, which took place in Washington this month, the two countries agreed on a range of measures to enhance cooperation to combat international terrorism, and as part of this process, the two sides would share experience, exchange information, and coordinate approaches and action.
(f) & (g) Soon after the hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft in December 1999, the Minister for External Affairs personally contacted several of his counterparts within the international community, including those in neighbouring countries, member countries of the UN Security Council and of governments with nationals aboard the hijacked aircraft. The Foreign Secretary also spoke to several of his counterparts and heads of diplomatic missions in New Delhi. In all instances, pledges of support and cooperation were received. This was further elaborated in statements of condemnation issued by several foreign governments, which saw the hijacking as an unacceptable act of international terrorism.